

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FACTS

August 2006

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL / CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT INTERTIE PROJECT

Introduction and Project Overview

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Delta-Mendota Canal / California Aqueduct Intertie Project (Intertie). The Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) is part of the Central Valley Project (CVP) whereas the California Aqueduct (CA) is part of the State Water Project (SWP). The CVP and the SWP currently coordinate water storage and delivery operations. To further this coordination, the proposed project would connect the CVP and SWP via the Intertie to serve water service contractors south of the Delta. The Intertie project would provide redundancy in the water distribution system, allowing operational flexibility to respond to CVP and SWP emergencies or maintenance activities. Additionally, the Intertie would be used to meet current unmet water supply demands with deliveries to CVP water customers south of the Delta.

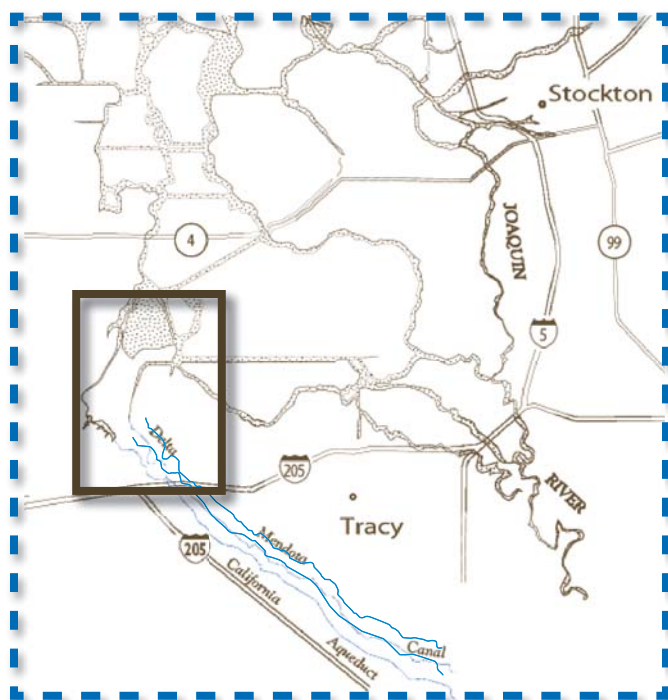


Project Components / Proposed Actions

The project area is an unincorporated area of the San Joaquin Valley in Alameda County, west of the City of Tracy. The site is in a rural area zoned for general agriculture and is under Federal and State ownership. The proposed project would address conveyance conditions on the DMC that restrict the CVP Tracy Pumping Plant to less than its authorized pumping capacity of 4,600 cubic feet per second. This would be achieved by constructing and operating a 450 cubic feet per second pumping facility and 500-foot underground pipeline that connect the two canals. The Intertie would be located at milepost 7.2 of the DMC and would connect with milepost 9.1 of the CA.

For More Information

Please contact Sharon McHale with the Bureau of Reclamation at (916) 978-5086, TDD (916) 978-5608, or e-mail smchale@mp.usbr.gov. You may also visit the project web site at: www.usbr.gov/mp/intertie



Just 500 feet separate the CVP and SWP at the proposed connection of the Intertie project.

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL / CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT INTERTIE PROJECT

1988

Initial Efforts

An intertie connecting the DMC and CA was studied in 1988 by Westlands Water District and Reclamation that would allow up to 600 cubic feet per second of CVP supplies to be diverted from the DMC to the CA and conveyed either to San Luis Reservoir or directly to Westlands Water District. This project was withdrawn before environmental studies were completed.

2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Programmatic Record of Decision (ROD)

The DMC / CA Intertie project is a proposed action in the August 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Programmatic ROD which investigated a number of interties and bypasses in the water system to improve Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta conveyance.

Spring 2001

Installation of Temporary Intertie

An emergency in 2001 related to damage of the canal lining of the CA required the installation of a temporary intertie to maintain water deliveries to SWP contractors over a 30-day period. Discussions have since focused on options to restore capacity in the DMC to address water delivery reductions that could occur as a result of pumping plant or conveyance outages on either the CA or the DMC.

Fall 2004

Environmental Assessment (EA) on the DMC / CA Intertie Project

In September 2004, Reclamation completed an EA on the DMC / CA Intertie project. After the EA was completed, Reclamation decided to prepare an EIS.

Summer 2006

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS on the DMC / CA Intertie Project and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

An NOI and notice of public scoping meetings was published in the Federal Register July 2006. Public scoping meetings were held in early August 2006 to solicit input on topics to be addressed in development of an EIS for the DMC / CA Intertie project, including resources to be evaluated, alternatives to be considered and significant concerns and issues. Input received is being incorporated in the Draft EIS for the proposed project including the development of alternatives to meet the project objectives.

Spring 2007

DMC / CA Intertie Project Draft EIS

Reclamation plans to release a Draft EIS on the DMC/CA Intertie project for public review and comment in the spring of 2007 followed by a public hearing at which Reclamation will receive public comments on the adequacy of the draft environmental document.

Summer 2007

DMC / CA Intertie Project Final EIS and Decision Documents

A Final EIS is estimated to be release in the summer of 2007 followed by a ROD.

Fall 2007

Complete Environmental Documentation and Permitting

Fall 2007

Complete Design Work and Award Construction Contracts

Winter 2008

Complete DMC / CA Intertie Project Construction

If approved, construction of the DMC / CA Intertie project is estimated to be complete by the winter of 2008.

